

SECRET

NPIC/TSSG/RED-1790-69

9 September 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

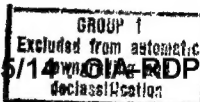
SUBJECT : Report of 29 August Trip to [] regarding
Automatic Stereo Scanner Optical Bench Test

1. On 18 August, I visited the contractor and observed optical fabrication and design drafting of the lens cells and spacers in process. Fabrication of these mechanical parts had not started. On 29 August, all drafting was complete and optical fabrication was still in process. I observed the completed mechanical parts, which, however, had not yet been inspected for compliance with fabrication tolerances. No difficulty was anticipated due to the high precision [] shop which did the job.

2. The optical fabrication is several days late. The explanation given refers to the extremely thin pentaprism corrector lens elements, requiring very careful polishing and handling to prevent damage. At Milestone 1 our consultant, [] had warned of the need for this because of the high ratio between diameter and thickness of the new lens designs. Standard vacuum-type polishing chucks could not be used for this fabrication. (Polishing and edging of the elements was completed on 4 September and coating scheduled for 5 September. The original schedule for Milestone 2, complete lens and prism assembly, is still projected as 12 September. On that date, I will visit [] with [] for a formal review.) Costs for optical fabrication are not expected to exceed the budget.

3. [] Project Manager, [] stated that by internal accounting regulations, they are carrying all project costs since the 14 July start-up date at 162% overhead (vice the negotiated 155%). He stated that he thought the DCAA has authorized the higher figure. This was not the case at our auditor's last visit. As a result of this higher rate alone, [] is forecasting a [] overrun at Milestone 2 []. They report that the latest actuals, as of 22 August, show [] expended and exactly on budget according to labor hours.

4. Anticipating the above administrative overrun, plus delay (10 days) before our auditor can evaluate the Milestone 2 actuals, Redpath requested that we consider allocating all remaining funds to completion if we are satisfied with progress at Milestone 2. [] and I discussed this and have decided to stick with the original plan.

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SUBJECT : Report of 29 August Trip to [] regarding
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25X1 5. The question of possible revision of the ASS test plan was raised
by the undersigned, in line with remarks by the [] optics team early in
this interim project task. [] says it was not formally costed,
especially before Milestone 2--I felt we should get a chance to review
any intended changes before the tests are due to start (Milestone 3).
25X1 [] reviewed this question with [] (who was not available on
29 August) and called me on 5 September. Only minor revisions of the
illumination test are planned on the optical bench. They will forward
a description of these changes one week prior to Milestone 3.

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25X1 6. In reference to the O/H ratio, [] has received an []
letter indicating that all work during 1969 carries a retroactive 162%.
Therefore, project charges are [] higher than previously reported.
Funds authorized but not committed now total approximately []

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